

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### Republican Ward Calls for Investigation of Equipment Operation



HARTFORD - A news report of New Haven Mayor John DeStefano running a huge machine to highlight the demolition of the New Haven Coliseum earlier this week has prompted a request for an investigation into whether he was operating heavy equipment without proper licenses.

House Minority Leader state Rep. Robert Ward of North Branford asked the state's top law enforcement officials to look into the matter. Ward said that the legislature in recent years had passed tougher laws on equipment operation in the wake of several construction accidents.

"It appeared that the Mayor was operating the machine and in fact that was reflected by the reporter doing the story," Ward said. The request for the review was forwarded to Public Safety Commissioner Leonard Boyle, Chief State's Attorney Christopher Moran and Attorney General Richard Blumenthal.

The demolition was a high profile event covered by the media Monday evening, including WFSB Channel 3 in Hartford, the story that Ward referenced. "I was shocked to see as I watched WFSB Channel 3 the night before last that Mayor John DeStefano was pictured operating a large piece of construction equipment and taking part in the demolition of the New Haven Coliseum," Ward wrote. "Unless I am mistaken, and the Mayor has qualified for a crane operator's license he appears to be in violation of our laws."

Ward asked for a "full investigation" and appropriate fines for anyone who may have violated construction safety laws.